

Sounds Week 3 Discussion Guide

Judicial Pardon

Summary

This week's study in Micah unfolds like a courtroom drama. God calls His people to trial, presenting the evidence of their guilt: idolatry, greed, and false prophecy. The verdict is just, and the sentence is severe; yet woven through the charges is a surprising message of hope. Micah points forward to a Shepherd-King from Bethlehem who will lead His people and bring peace. The prophecy closes with a stunning picture of God's mercy, reminding us that while we stand guilty in His courtroom, the Judge has a far greater purpose in mind than condemnation.

Discussion Questions

1. The Charges

What were the main accusations God brought against Israel?

- **Answer:** Idolatry, greed, and false prophecy (Micah 1:3–5; 2:1–2; 2:6, 11).
- **Application:** What parallels do you see in today's culture, and how can we avoid falling into these same traps?

2. The Hope

How does Micah describe God's promise of restoration even in the middle of judgment?

- **Answer:** God promises to gather a remnant and send a Shepherd-King to lead them out of bondage (Micah 2:12–13; John 10:11; John 8:34–36).
- **Application:** When has Jesus, the Good Shepherd, led you personally out of bondage?

3. The Timeline

What does Micah mean by "in the last days"?

- **Answer:** It refers not to the end of the physical world but to the end of the Old Covenant era inaugurated by Christ's first coming (Micah 4:1–2; Hebrews 1:1–2).
- **Application:** How does this understanding reshape the way you read prophecy today?

4. The Requirements

What does God actually want from His people?

- **Answer:** To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23).
- **Application:** Which of these three—justice, mercy, humility—do you feel God is prompting you to grow in this season?

5. The Verdict (and the Surprise)

What surprising twist does Micah reveal at the end of his prophecy?

- **Answer:** Though Israel is guilty and deserving of judgment, God delights to show mercy—He tramples sin underfoot and hurls iniquity into the sea (Micah 7:18–19).
- **Application:** How does it change your view of God to know that the Judge’s ultimate purpose is mercy, not condemnation?

Prayer Prompts

1. **Confession:** God, reveal and forgive the idols, greed, or false comforts that pull me away from You.
2. **Restoration:** Jesus, thank You for being my Shepherd and for pleading my case before the Father.
3. **Transformation:** Holy Spirit, help me to live out Micah 6:8 this week—acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with You.